

CHAL-0174 ✓

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23 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Materiel, DPS/DCI**THROUGH : Deputy Director, DPS/DCI****SUBJECT : Over-Age Components****REFERENCES : A. [] 01 (IN 42835)**
B. [] 5834 (IN 42878)

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1/ Reference A from the Chief of the Lockheed Section at [] presents a problem to the Lockheed home office. It asserts that subassemblies furnished from [] carry test stamps dated 1955 and it asks whether these should be installed in operational aircraft when the replacement of some subassembly is indicated. Reference B is not a reply by Lockheed but a comment by [] on Reference A. Reference B reveals divergencies between the Detachment's records and the [] on several points [] lists subassemblies with 1956 not 1955 dates and has no record of having issued seat belts to the Detachment). Reference B leaves unanswered, however, the question raised by the Detachment concerning the installation of unused but allegedly over-aged subassemblies.

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2. I am well aware that this is a technical question which Lockheed can probably answer better than either [] or this Headquarters. So far as I am aware, however, no answer has ever been forthcoming from Lockheed. If I am correct, I wonder whether the Director of Materiel should not prod Lockheed for a reply.

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3. Looking beyond this particular instance I wonder whether some investigation is not in order to establish which items (including subassemblies) should have a life limit determined by age and which a limit determined by use. For instance, I assume that a rubber diaphragm from a face plate exhaust valve should be obsolete after a fixed number of months whereas a wing flap motor, if properly stored, might be good for the same number of hours whether it had been on the shelf in [] for one month or for two years.

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In any event it seems to me that consideration must be given to the status of our inventory of spares and to any problems we may have to face by reason of passage of time since many of the items were procured and put in stock. I would appreciate your comments on these matters at your convenience.

g/m
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SA/PD/DCI:RMB:djm

1-Addressee

2-Dep Dir, DPS/DCI

3-Director D&P, DPS/DCI

4-SA/PD/DCI FU

5-SA/PD/DCI Chrono

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